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Kane County Magazine

MARCH 2022

HOME HEARTH

FLOOR IT

5 things to consider
when buying new tile

Page 17

BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL

A Q&A about Elgin's
Painted Ladies homes

Page 10

Modern & WARM

Update your home with new trends and goods, all
available locally in Kane County | Section starts on page 8

Editor's NOTE



I'm writing to you on the day after Valentine's Day, so I'm feeling full of love.

Love for the sun, which is coming out of its winter hibernation; for my local coffee shop, which provides such a comfortable workspace; and for the relationships in my life: romantic, friendship and family.

As we head into Women's History Month, I find myself thinking of the women who have made history in my own life. Grandma Jean inspired me as a writer. Grandma Hope left a legacy of strength and kindness. My first newspaper editor, Liz, instilled both a love and respect for journalism. My mom, sister and best friends provide daily inspiration of what it means to care for others and stand up for yourself.

Who are the women who have left an impact on your life? What do you hope to pass along, either as a woman or person who has meaningful female friends? I'm still contemplating those questions myself, but I do know that having a wide circle of female

friendships has done nothing but enhance my well-being.

In this same spirit, we included a feature on three female business owners who have carved out a space for themselves in the dining industry (P. 30). Don't miss the accompanying sidebar on Janet Gallagher, who was chosen as a judge in this year's Tournament of Roses parade.

This March home & hearth issue features stories about enhancing your homes in ways big and small, from new tile to midcentury modern design (P. 17 and 8, respectively). If there are home-centered stories you'd like to see in our next homes issue, please don't hesitate to reach out. I love hearing from readers!

Thank you for reading!

Hannah

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*This magazine is available by
subscription for \$24 a year. If you
would like each month's edition mailed
to your home, send your request with
payment information to
Shaw Media, 7717 S. Route 31,
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SHAW MEDIA
est. 1851

Published by Shaw Media
7717 S. Route 31,
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

on the **COVER**

This living room features abundant natural light, pops of color and the cutest dog. Read more about home renovations starting on P. 8, and learn more about designer Shannon Peppard on P. 16. Photo by Margaret Rajic for Peppard Design.

Next month: From consignment shopping to trends in nail art, we'll have the scoop on what's popular in fashion!





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award-winning

AESTHETIC

Shannon Peppard, owner of The Pep Line, was recently named one of the top three most influential designers nationally

By Louise Treeny | Photos by Margaret Rajic

Many people took time in 2020 to slow down.

But not Shannon Peppard.

In 2020 alone, Peppard expanded her online shop to a physical vendor space and was named in the top three most influential designers nationally. Then, last October in downtown St. Charles, she opened her own brick-and-mortar space, The Pep Line, which she describes as “curated goods for the home.”

Everything happened “so fast and so organically,” she says. “You just know it’s right.”

You read that right: top three designers nationally. But, first, some background: Peppard has owned and operated her own design firm, Peppard Design, for the past 17 years. She started The Pep Line as an online extension featuring goods she’d consider for her designs, then was approached by St. Charles vintage shop Trend + Relic to be a vendor in their new store. After wild success there, she moved into the Cedar Avenue home, which dates back to 1836 and is thought to be a former Underground Railroad stop. The space’s rooms provide a realistic, inviting setting for



Peppard’s home goods.

In the midst of the expansion, Peppard received an email from Rowe Furniture. She had been named in the top 10 designers out of more than 3,000 nationally. “I felt like I was a winner there,” she remembers. From there, an online vote narrowed down the top 10 to three. At her son’s baseball game last July, she learned she was one of the three My Rowe Designers.

Rowe asked her to design a showroom to be shown at the spring 2021 High Point Market, an industry-wide event held twice a year in North Carolina. “It was the most humbling experience,” she says. “I was just blown away.”

To see her curated showroom, go to www.myrowedesign.com/shannon-peppard, which shows both specific pieces and the completed room, along with a description of her inspiration and thought process. “A palette of subtle, earthy tones was the perfect complement to this multifunctional family living space,” writes the My Rowe Design team.

Speaking of earthy tones, Peppard advises homeowners to consider adding soft pops of color into their spaces. Mixing different genres of design creates a timeless, classic look in your space.

The Pep Line specializes in goods you won’t find elsewhere in the Fox Valley, from greeting cards to exclusive kitchen goods, handbags, garden items and more. You’ll find pieces that are available to be taken home that same day, or ordered for a quick turnaround. In addition to smaller accessories, the shop offers lighting, furniture, decor — essentially everything you need to create a comfortable space for yourself and loved ones.

The team envisions holding events collaborating with local businesses (picture food trucks and live music).

“It’s the perfect backdrop for my modern aesthetic,” says Peppard.